

## Charlton Parish Council

### Minutes of the Meeting 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7.30pm

Clerk to the Council, Wendy Cope 22, Heathfield Road, Norton Evesham

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Present: Chairman Cllr Roger Davies, Vice Chairman Cllr Richard Bentley,  
Cllr Helen Hill, Cllr Richard Wallis, District Councillor Angie Crump,  
County Councillor Elizabeth Eyre, Parish Clerk Wendy Cope.

- 1) Apologies Cllr Ted Grazier, Cllr Wendy Sharpe, Cllr Darren Salmons, Cllr Liz Eyre
- 2) Not present None
- 3) Declaration of interest, Cllr Wallis declared an interest in the renewal of The Smart Cut Contract.
- 4) Public Session There were two members of the public in attendance, who had come to discuss the flooding issues. Cllr Davies advised that the draft letter to send out concerning The Flood Gauge is awaiting final approval, and he would endeavour to complete this and send it out ASAP. Cllr Davies advised that the stretch from The River to The Cemetery bridge had been cleared in 2007 and that, The Environment Agency had informed him that the river did not pose a threat to The Merrybrook in The Village, we should look at raising this again. A blockage between Canada Bank and Brook Lane bridges had been reported to The Environment Agency, but a response had not been received, it has been cleared by volunteers. Cllr Crump informed The Council that Severn Trent will always respond on their hotline to flood reports. One of The Parishioners in attendance reported that a Red Banner had appeared on Hydro-logic's website to say that their responsibility for the gauge was ending, Cllr Davies said he would check particularly as the contract has another year to run. It was reported that the road signs alerting people to flooding had appeared this time at the corner by The Gardener's Arms. It was reported that the footbridge is in great need of repair, Cllr Davies reported that this was the responsibility of Worcestershire County Council Highways. To reduce flood risk a better designed bridge would be more appropriate. The Clerk said she would speak to them.

#### 5) Review of minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of The Parish Council Meeting held 11<sup>th</sup> of January 2024 were proposed by Cllr. Wallis and seconded by Cllr Bentley

6) County Councillor's Report Cllr Eyre did not attend but had spoken to Cllr Davies. With regards to Worcestershire County Council's proposal to build a new footbridge across The Avon in Evesham he raised long proposed The Evesham to Pershore Cycle Plan. He also enquired as to why the footway between Sidings Lane and The Cemetery had not been repaired at the same time as the remainder of the footway.

7) District Councillors Cllr Crump reported that she had attended a meeting with The Police Crime Commissioner, where it was said that more Police Officers were needed. Cllr Crump had pointed out that Police Officers did not attend Parish Council Meetings. The Clerk reported that she had received an email asking when The Meetings were. Cllr Crump reported that there is funding for Youth Groups from The PCC. Cllr Crump reported that the PCC will be setting up Town Centre Teams, and education in schools for anti-social behaviour. The increase on Council Tax across Wychavon had been well received £5 on Band D. There will be an initiative across Wychavon to set up Village Hubs, it was suggested that the three villages Fladbury, Cropthorne and Charlton could maybe share this. Cllr Hill asked what their remit would be, Cllr Crump said advice on welfare,

benefits etc. Cllr Hill said that the emphasis must be on inclusion, as she had been told that other platforms like this had not been inclusive. Cllr Crump advised The Council about Wychavon's initiative on litter picking called adopt a street. Where people could adopt a street and be responsible to pick all the litter up there. Cllr Davies advised that Charlton had a group undertaking this, and wondered if it would happen this year. Cllr Crump reported on The River Action Group: Severn Trent will be spending £7million over three years in the area. They will be promoting Water Fit, promoting the use of water butts with connection to guttering, correct connections for dishwashers and washing machines; advising wipes, nappies and sanitaryware not to be flushed in toilets; advising people on how to be more efficient about water wastage. They will be employing more people to advise householders, and help maintain the river. Improving the water quality of the river for the good of Bio-diversity. It is an uphill struggle, but progress is being made.

8) Report on The South Worcestershire Development Plan. Cllr Davies asked what had happened with the SWDPO report? Cllr Crump reported that The Inspectors had rejected some of the data because it was too old, and that the report would be further delayed now until the autumn. Cllr Davies said he had written to Ian Dipple asking for answers.

9) Report on The WCC Minerals Plan. Cllr Davies reported there was no change on The Minerals Plan.

9) Report from Parish Path Warden, Cropthorne and Charlton Village Hall and Workman Trust/Old School Room. No reports received.

10) Report of Planning Committee Two issues are now been looked into by Samuel Mather and Cllr Crump is now liaising with him. Cllr Hill asked Cllr Crump if it would be possible for another Road Survey be conducted in Haselor Lane? It was agreed that Liz Eyre should be asked too.

11) Finance All invoices were approved for payment.

12) Report on Bio Diversity nothing to report at present, other than action plan to be prepared.

13) Report on Matters concerning The Green Cllr Davies reported that a new tree will be planted on the Green, a meeting was needed between himself, Cllr Sharpe and Cllr Grazier to organise.

14) Report on Cemetery Matters A meeting between Cllrs Davies, Hill and Bentley together with The Lengthsman needs to take place concerning the hedge at The Cemetery.

15) It was agreed the The Clerk should go ahead with organising Parish Emails with The Cabinet Office using .gov.uk domain name, subject to receiving confirmation that historic email history would be retained for ex Councillors.

16) Report on Highways, Footpaths including The new VAS machine The New Vas Machine will be fitted very soon.

17) To consider an application for public footpath status for paths not on the definitive map no update

18) Report on Flooding Issues already discussed, in The Public Forum.

19) Report on Street lighting Cllr Davies reported that the streetlight updates were now complete. We are awaiting confirmation of our reduced electricity usage.

20) Reports for information Broadband is now complete in The Parish. Pollution on The River Avon had been covered in the report from Cllr Crump. It is hoped that The Village Newsletter will be available soon. It was decided that The Village Website should be administered by The Parish Council to meet legislative requirements.

21) The Parish Council unanimously accepted The New Three-Year Contract from Smart Cut, for the mowing and other work within The Parish.

22) The Parish Council confirmed the date for Charlton Country Fayre Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> of June 2024.

23) The Annual Parish Meeting is on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> of April 2024.

24) Correspondence None

2) Items for inclusion/information in the next Agenda None

24) Date of the next Parish Council Meeting Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Meeting adjourned 9.30

**Signed/date**

